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25X1A

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COUNTRY Austria

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SUBJECT KPOe Planning Mass Demonstration in Vienna

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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The Communist Party of Austria (KPOe) is planning a mass demonstration to take place in Vienna on 18 September 1951. It is to be coordinated with demonstrations in the provincial capitals, beginning an increasingly noisy campaign against rent and price increases. The Vienna demonstration is to end in a mass meeting at the Rathausplatz. All USIA workers taking part in the demonstration will be brought to Vienna by USIA trucks, and will suffer no loss of salary for the work stoppage. According to rumors in various quarters, non-political (sic) delegations will be sent to the city hall, OeVP and SPÖ headquarters. Planned activists may create disturbances if the delegations are not received. FÖeJ activist groups have not yet been alerted, but individual FÖeJ members in USIA factories will join in the demonstration with other USIA workers.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: It is believed that demonstrations on the rent issue will gain momentum during the coming weeks, and may culminate in a strike or in riots if the KPOe can sway 10,000 non-Party workers.

25X1A Comment: According to a report dated 4 September 1951 and evaluated from an Austrian with good KPOe contacts, a rent committee has been formed in Baden. This committee is officially non-political, but is led by the KPOe Bezirksleitung (district headquarters) in Baden. The Party has provided committees, hand bills, and posters. The committee's only action to date is a proclamation addressed to the mayor of Baden requesting his assistance in the committee's efforts to see appropriate authorities on the rent question.

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